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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 DODE-00 ISO-00 MCE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00
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APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
NSC:REHUNTER
EUR/NE:DWOOLFLEY
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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GER PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES ITALY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 229063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT: DEPLOYMENT OF STABALLOY MUNITIONS FOR A-10
AIRCRAFT

REFS: (A) STATE 221419, DTG 302351Z AUG 78
-- (B) STATE 221420, DTG 302352Z AUG 78
-- (C) BONN 16042, DTG 012353Z SEPT 78
-- (D) LONDON 14205, DTG 021116Z SEPT 78
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-- (E) STATE 227295, DTG 072353Z SEP 78
-- (F) LONDON 14440, DTG 081128Z SEP 78
-- (G) BONN 16493, DTG 081846Z SEP 78

1. PER REQUEST REFTEL G, FIRST SHIPMENT OF STABALLOY MUNITIONS IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SEPT. 16 AT NORDENHEIM, FRG. FOR REASONS STATED IN REFTEL E, WE

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WOULD PREFER TO STAY WITH THAT DATE. PUBLIC RELEASE
PER REFTEL A WOULD OCCUR ON THAT DATE--WHICH, BEING A
SATURDAY, SHOULD GIVE A LOWER PRESS PROFILE.

2. FOR LONDON: IF QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL D (ANSWERED
IN PARA 4-5 BELOW) AND ON SEPT. 11 OR 12 (REFTEL F) ARE
NOT ANSWERED TO THE SATISFACTION OF HMG, AND HMG SUB-
SEQUENTLY CANNOT AGREE ON THE PROPOSED PUBLIC AFFAIRS
APPROACH, WE ARE PREPARED TO DELETE THE REFERENCE TO THE

UK FROM THE NEWS RELEASE AND ADD THE FOLLOWING Q AND A
TO APPROVED PRESS GUIDANCE.

BEGIN QUOTE: Q: SINCE THE A-10 WILL BE STATIONED IN
THE UK ALSO, WILL STABALLOY MUNITIONS BE DEPLOYED THERE?

A: WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ON THAT AT THIS POINT. UNQUOTE

3. WITH REGARD TO THE VOLUME OF STOCKS TO BE DEPLOYED
IN UK, THE AF PLANS TO DEPLOY SUFFICIENT STABALLOY
MUNITIONS TO THE UK FOR AN INITIAL COMBAT LOAD FOR THE
A-10 AIRCRAFT TO BE STATIONED IN THE UK, PLUS AN AMOUNT
FOR UP-LOADING ANY AIRCRAFT WHICH MUST RETURN TO THE
UK FOR MAINTENANCE. THE PRESENT CONCEPT IS FOR THE A-10
TO DEPLOY FROM THE UK TO COMBAT AND FORWARD BASES ON THE
CONTINENT. THEVOLUME OF STOCKS PRESENTLY UNDER CON-
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SIDERATION FOR DEPLOYMENT IN THE UK IS APPROXIMATELY
81,000 STABALLOY ROUNDS, 100 TONS STORAGE WEIGHT, OR
66 TONS DROP OR AMMUNITION WEIGHT.

4. IN REGARD TO THE MANNER OF HANDLING MUNITIONS IN
THE UK, AF PLANS FOR TRANSPORTATION AND HANDLING HAVE NOT
BEEN MADE. THE EARLIEST SHIPMENT DATE TO THE UK WOULD BE
IN 1979. DEPLOYMENT
OF THE MUNITIONS BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT DIRECTLY TO
THE STORAGE BASE COULD BE CONSIDERED IN ORDER TO
PRECLUDE HANDLING BY NON-US PERSONNEL.

5. FOR LONDON: WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE A TEAM FROM
THE US TO THE EMBASSY TO ASSIST IN DISCUSSIONS ON
11, 12 SEPT.

CHRISTOPHER

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